Melissa A. Kucinski is a private practice family lawyer and mediator and a Professorial Lecturer in Law at the George Washington University Law School. Melissa serves on the US Department of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law, has consulted for the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and created the only advanced mediation training in the U.S. for international family law cases, which she adapted for the Tokyo Bar Association when she trained its mediators in 2014. Melissa sits as a member of the Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Family Laws with the U.S. Uniform Law Commission, was an observer on the drafting committee for the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, and was a private sector advisor to the State Department for its meetings in the Hague on the practical operation of the Hague Abduction and Child Protection Conventions. Melissa is a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers, and is often court appointed to represent children in contested custody cases, a topic on which she is authoring a practice manual for the American Bar Association.